

## **REMARKS**

Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claim 29 would be allowable in independent form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present case in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 15, 27-28, and 30 have been amended. Claims 26 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 15, 17-24, 27-28, and 30-35 are currently pending. No new matter has been inserted. Claim 15 was amended to include the features of claims 26 and 29. Claims 27-28 and 30 were simply amended to correct their dependency.

### **35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 15 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kola et al. (U.S. 6,005,197, of record), Ishihara et al. (U.S. 5,032,694, of record), and Holmes et al. (U.S. 4,153,518, newly cited). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicants have included the features of claim 29 into claim 15, rendering this rejection moot. As claims 17-24 are dependent on claim 15, the rejection is also obviated as applied to them. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 17-24, 26-28, and 30-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kola et al., Ishihara et al., Lebow et al. (U.S. 4,159,222, of record) and Holmes. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not conceding the correctness of Examiner's rejection, Applicants have included the features of claim 29 into claim 15, rendering this rejection moot. As claims 17-24, 27-28, and 30-35 are dependent on claim 15, the rejection is also obviated as applied to them. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 16, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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DPM:MED:kf